

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Bryan (William Jennings) Home (Fairview)

AND/OR COMMON

William Jennings Bryan Home

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4900 Sumner Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

001 (First)

STATE

Nebraska

CODE

31

COUNTY

Lancaster

CODE

109

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Bryan Memorial Hospital (administered by Nebraska State Historical Society)

STREET & NUMBER

1500 R. Street

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska 08508

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lancaster County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1934

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress/Annex, Prints and Photographs Division

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED
☒ restored

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

1 1/2 Fairview was constructed between 1902 and 1903 at the cost of \$17,000, a large sum for that period. It was designed by Artemus A. Roberts, a Lincoln architect since 1870. The house is a fine example of a combination of two architectural styles popular in Lincoln at the turn of the century: the Queen Anne and the Classic Revival. The substantial, soft-toned brick mansion rises ~~four~~^{five} stories, including a daylight basement and an attic. A slate roof with numerous gables and dormers, a tower with a ~~squared conical~~^{bell-cast pyramidal} roof, cornices decorated with wooden saw-work, and numerous cut-and stained-glass windows comprise some of the finishing touches on the house.

A tree-bordered drive paved with brick once led to the steps of a large, semi-circular front porch. With its exposed hilltop location, the porch was often swept by chilly breezes, and in 1908 the Bryans converted it into an enclosed reception room. The house looked down across rolling countryside to the thickly wooded valley of nearby Antelope Creek. The Bryan holdings in 1908 totalled 160 acres. Later purchases more than doubled this figure.

In 1921 Bryan deeded the mansion at Fairview and ten acres of land to the Nebraska Methodist Conference as the site for Lincoln Methodist Hospital. This name was changed to Bryan Memorial Hospital after Bryan's death in 1925. The hospital was built west of the house, and Fairview itself became a home for student nurses. In 1961 the Junior League of Lincoln and the Nebraska State Historical Society entered into an agreement with the hospital board to restore Fairview to its condition during Bryan's occupancy and open it to the public. The restoration includes many original Bryan pieces, and has been done with great professionalism. The "fair view," however, no longer exists. In 1964 a new addition to the Bryan Hospital was built with its east wall a few feet from and towering above the west wall of the mansion. It stands on a residential city street with buildings blocking its vista to the south and east. A small playground abuts the mansion to the north.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1902-1921

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Artemus A. Roberts

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fairview was the home of William Jennings Bryan from 1902 until 1921. It functioned as both a public and a private residence. Public receptions, political rallies, and lawn parties were frequent occasions here. The mansion was the hub of Bryan's political activities; he hoped it would become "the Monticello of the West." And, it afforded Bryan much-needed privacy away from his hectic public life. It became a home for student nurses in 1921 and a public museum forty years later.

BIOGRAPHY

William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925), political leader and orator, practiced law in Illinois from 1883 to 1887 and then moved to Lincoln, Nebraska. His speeches during the 1888 presidential campaign were very effective on behalf of Democratic candidates. It was a time of depression and discontent in farming areas. In 1891 he became Nebraska's first Democratic congressman. In 1893 his speeches established him as the leader of the free-silver movement in opposition to the more conservative gold standard policy. Unfortunately, the central issue of monopoly domination of the nation's resources got sidetracked during the conflict over gold and silver.

Although defeated in all elections for which he subsequently appeared as candidate, Bryan was the recognized leader of his party for the next 30 years. During that time he succeeded in recasting the party in a progressive mold, and making it once again into an organization with national appeal. His program included the then-radical proposals for regulation of railroad rates, establishment of a federal income tax, woman suffrage, representation of labor in the Presidential cabinet, popular election of U.S. Senators, direct primaries, and initiative and referendum in state government. In 1896 he gained control of the Democratic national convention at Chicago. His speech in defense of bimetallism included the famous passage, "You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns; you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold." He was nominated for President by both the Democratic and the Populist Party. He travelled over 18,000 miles, and made altogether 600 speeches in 27 states--an unprecedented number. He was defeated by the Republican, William McKinley, with 176 electoral votes to 271.

Bryan was defeated twice more in Presidential bids, in 1900 and again in 1908. In 1912, however, it was largely his influence which gained Woodrow Wilson

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bryan, William Jennings, The First Battle, 1896.

Glad, Paul W., The Trumpet Soundeth: William Jennings Bryan and His Democracy, 1896-1912, 1960.

Winkelman, Phyllis H., "Fairview: Home of William Jennings Bryan", Nebraska History, vol. 55, spring, 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 698140 4518530
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The area surrounding the William Jennings Bryan Home is totally alien to its appearance during Bryan's occupancy. The boundaries therefore are described by a rectangle bounded by Fairview to the north, a sidewalk to the west, a driveway to the East, and Summer Street to the south.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmark Boundary Review Project

ORGANIZATION Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service DATE 7/1/75

STREET & NUMBER 1100 L. Street, NW. TELEPHONE 202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN Washington STATE D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

LANDMARKS

DATE

8/31/78

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

DATE

June 16, 1978

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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the Democratic nomination. In recognition for this service Wilson appointed him ~~S~~ecretary of State in 1913.

Bryan was an early advocate of independence for the Phillipines. He devoted much attention to treaties with foreign nations to prevent war through arbitration. He opposed war loans to belligerents in World War I, and resigned his post when it became clear America would enter the war.

Bryan's political influence declined following the war, although many of the causes he had championed earlier became law in his lifetime. In 1925 Bryan assisted in the prosecution of the famous Scopes Trial in Dayton, Tenn. Scopes had been teaching evolution, contrary to state law. In the hands of Bryan and Clarence Darrow, chief defense counsel, it took the form of a contest between fundamentalism and modernism. The verdict was a moral victory for the defense; on the conclusion of the trial Bryan became ill and died five days later.

*The Scopes Trial was a victory for
defense, with Darrow as the star.
- 11/1/81 1457*